



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



GOVERNOR VISITS BROOKINGS VETERANS MEMORIAL

Tuesday, while in Brookings for "Capitol for the Day", Governor Daugaard and First Lady Linda Daugaard took time out of their busy schedule to visit the Brookings County Veterans Memorial.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard had the opportunity to visit with Harry Jones who designed the memorial and spearheaded the drive to bring it to completion in 1991.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard poses for a photo with members of the local Rolling Thunder chapter at the Brookings County Veterans Memorial on Tuesday afternoon.



Gov. Daugaard poses with members of the local Rolling Thunder Chapter



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The SD Department of Veterans Affairs maintains a directory of all veterans memorials in South Dakota — the directory can be found at:

<http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/Veterans%20Memorials.pdf>

Photos courtesy of John Kubal/The Brookings Register.

NATIONAL GUARD UNIT HONORED DURING DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at the "Shrine of Democracy," Mount Rushmore National Memorial, July 17, for a deployment ceremony in honor of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team).

Supporters of the unit assembled at the monument's amphitheater under the faces of past presidents to say farewell to the three soldiers of Rapid City-based 216th as they depart for a nine-month tour to Romania.

"On behalf of all of South Dakota, I thank you for your service, your courage, your willingness to step forward and protect that which gives us wonderful opportunities in America," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard during the ceremony. "For that I thank you and I wish you Godspeed and God bless you."

The mission of the 216th is to provide command and control of attached firefighting teams to provide fire protection of aviation assets, facilities and installations in the European Command area of operation.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, this is the second mobilization for the 216th, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2005.

"One hundred years ago today, the South Dakota National Guard was completely mobilized during World War I, and 20 years after that it was again totally mobilized for World War II," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, to the audience. "Make no mistake about it, we have a three-man unit deploying overseas today. This is a big deal too. This is a part of our history and a part of our legacy that we are creating today."

The unit will also deploy with three assigned Army National Guard firefighting teams from Hawaii, South Carolina and Idaho, as well as one active-duty Army unit. The 216th will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.





What is the NAMI Homefront Education Program?

NAMI Homefront is a free, six-session class for family, friends and significant others of Military Service Members and Veterans. The class helps families comprehend what the Military Service Member/ Veteran is experiencing related to trauma, combat stress, civilian life, PTSD and other mental health conditions. Topics covered include mental health, communication, handling crises, treatment and recovery.

The course is designed to increase understanding and advocacy skills while helping participants maintain their own well-being. The program is taught by trained military/Veteran families who have a loved one with a mental health condition.

NAMI Homefront online classes are scheduled for:

July 24 – August 28, 2017 (six consecutive Mondays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. MT)
 July 25 – August 29, 2017 (six consecutive Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET)
 July 26 – August 30, 2017 (six consecutive Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. CT)
 July 27 – August 31, 2017 (six consecutive Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. PT)



Participant Perspectives

NAMI Homefront is an adaptation of the evidence-based NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program, which has been taught in VA health facilities since the late 1990s. Graduates of NAMI Homefront say:

"It's the first step I have taken to get more involved personally with the VA. The first step I have taken to take care of me."

Mother of a Veteran

"I realized I saw signs and symptoms of PTSD but did not know how to handle my loved one – I know better how to handle situations."

Spouse of a Veteran

To learn more and register* click (or copy and paste into your browser) the link:

<https://www.nami.org/homefront>

***All participants are screened to ensure this class is appropriate for their needs.**

If you are the family or friend of a Military Service Member/Veteran experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition (PTSD, anxiety, depression, etc.), NAMI Homefront offers information, support, communication skills and resources.

To participate in this online class you must have access to:

- A laptop, PC or tablet with a stable internet connection
- A landline or cell phone with a headset for audio

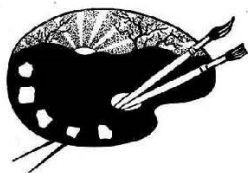
The course is taught live by trained NAMI Homefront teachers. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. All participants are screened to ensure this class is appropriate for their needs. The class is free but you are asked to attend all six sessions.

Note: This is a six-week class NOT a teacher training session.



About NAMI

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI and dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community with mental health conditions and their loved ones.



4-Generation ART SHOW

"Art- The Tie That Binds Us"

WHERE: *M.J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Auditorium*

Hot Springs, SD

WHEN: *July 22-23 - 10 AM to 5 PM (MT)*

FREE to the Public

The show will have multiple media; oil, acrylic, ink, pastel, charcoal, watercolor, graphite, and more. We will also share some photography, glass work, ceramics, and sculpting. Work from the following artists:

-Wilfred Schmidt	-Margaret Schmidt	-Jim Schmidt	-Susan Schmidt
-Pat Schmidt	-Brian Schmidt	-Caleb Ricks	-Tim Tescher
-Gayle Tescher	-Corey Bucher	-Anna Tescher	-Teresa Sowers
-Liam Sowers	-Don Schmidt	-Terri Schmidt	-Dillan Schmidt
-John Schmidt	-Jeremy Schmidt	-Angel Schmidt	-Frank Dusek

"This is a once in a lifetime show as all these art pieces have never been, nor will be, together again"

~ Margaret Schmidt

For Information call:

**Gayle Tescher (605) 222-0235
Margaret Schmidt (605) 539-1397**



The Watertown Sea of Goodwill is excited to sponsor the “first-ever” *The Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat* for our Heroes—Post 9/11 Veterans and Service Members and their families.

The Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat

November 11-12, 2017

**Joy Ranch
Watertown, SD**

The retreat begins at noon on Saturday and ends at noon on Sunday. *The Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat* is valued at \$335 for a family of 4 and \$370 for a family of 5. However, this awesome experience is completely *FREE* and *AVAILABLE* to the first 16 Veteran or Military Service Families who register for the retreat by **October 31, 2017**. *The Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat* includes:

- Veteran or Service Member Equine Experiences
- Retreat Room
- Dinner on Saturday Evening
- Breakfast on Sunday Morning
- 2 Family Activities while their Veteran or Service Member is engaged in an Equine Experience
- 1 Family Activity of choice when all 16 families are together.

Reserve your retreat today! Call Joy Ranch at (605)-886-4622 or email jess@losd.org or morgan@losd.org or register online at <http://www.losd.org/events-retreats/joy-ranch/sea-of-goodwill-retreat.html>.

VFW HONORS SD STATE COMMANDER

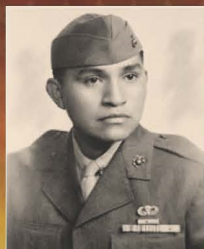
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. has announced that Dennis Sharp of Fort Pierre, SD, has achieved All-American status as a Department Commander.

Sharp, commander of the Department of South Dakota, is one of only 13 state commanders worldwide to earn the title of All-American Commander. To achieve this honor, Department commanders must meet strict requirements in their role to include exceptional leadership, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and strong support of VFW core programs.

"The All-American Commanders have attained this coveted title through outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in VFW programs," said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy. "They are a fine example of VFW leadership. Their hard work and dedication to the mission and values of our organization has rightly earned them this great honor."



VETERANS STAND DOWN



ROSEBUD SIOUX RESERVATION



All Armed Service Veterans and
their families are welcome.

When:

July 25, 2017

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where:

Rosebud Sioux Tribal Nation

Veteran Affairs Building

Rosebud, SD 57570

Please bring a copy of your DD214, dependent information and identification to the event so that we may properly serve you and meet your needs.

For further questions contact Jamison Hild
at: 605-490-8587

Services Offered:

Lunch
Clothing
VA Benefits
Housing Referrals
Employment Services
Legal Assistance
Readjustment Counseling
and much more!

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Black Hills Health Care System



Public Agent Orange Forum

WHEN: November 4, 2017

WHERE: Meade County Court House
1300 Sherman Street in Sturgis
Commissioners Chambers (2nd Floor)

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Moderator: Maynard Kaderlik (Vietnam Veterans of America Agent Orange Chairman)

Sponsored by Sturgis Arts Council and VVA #1039
Two session opportunities are offered. This is a very important event for those who were exposed and for their family members.

2017 ANNUAL **AIM TO WIN!**

Law enforcement, first responders and military personnel are invited to participate in SD Salutes, a FREE appreciation event to say thank you for protecting and serving the citizens of South Dakota.

MON. SEPT. 25TH | TUE. SEPT. 26TH | HUNTERS POINTE SHOOTING COMPLEX, HUMBOLDT, SD
REGISTER TODAY: SDSALUTES.ORG



RIFLE TOURNAMENT

- Individual events with yardage variable based on ammunition and gun set up
- Top Gun Awards (per tournament/per hour)
- 9 shooters per tournament
- 10 tournaments a day



PISTOL TOURNAMENT

- Top Gun Awards (per tournament/per hour)
- Individual 10/15-yard events
- 9 shooters per tournament
- 10 tournaments a day



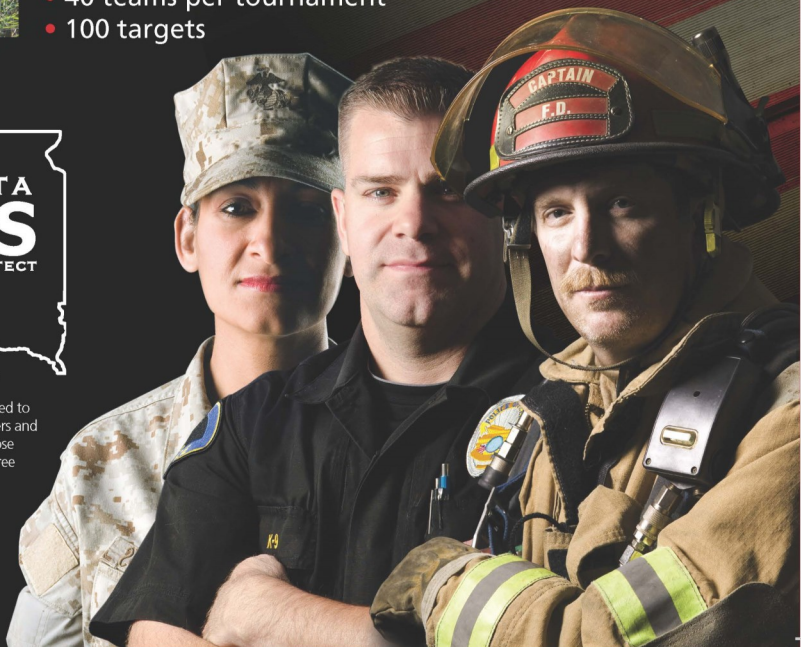
SPORTING CLAYS TEAM EVENTS (4-PERSON TEAMS)

Individuals may register to be placed with a team

- Top Gun and Top Team Awards (per event/per course)
- Loaner guns available if needed
- Three tournaments a day
- 40 teams per tournament
- 100 targets



SD Salutes is a nonprofit citizen's action group formed to show appreciation for South Dakota's first responders and to help financially support the families of those whose lives are lost in the line of duty. Its premier event is free to law enforcement, fire and rescue, and military personnel and will raise money to support the families of fallen soldiers and first responders. Food and beverages provided.



Upcoming Events

July 21-22 Veterans Rally—W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls
July 22—PVA Annual Poker Run—Thirsty Duck Bar and Grill (945 S. Marion Rd) Sioux Falls— 11:00 am (CT)
July 22—American Legion State Commander Hugh Holmes Homecoming—Post 18—11:00 am (CT)
July 25—Veterans Stand Down—Rosebud Sioux Tribe Veterans Affairs Building—Rosebud—10:00 am (CT)
Aug 5—American Legion State Auxiliary President Elvira Rose Homecoming—Post 17—1:00 pm (CT)
Aug 10—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Senior Center—Aberdeen—6:00 pm (CT)
Aug 10-13—The Vietnam Wall—I-90 Information Center—Chamberlain
Aug 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota
Aug 16—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine—VA Parking Lot—5:30 pm (CT)
Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings
Sept 9—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
Sept 22 Homeless Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
Sept 25-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls
Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
Sept 28—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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